


# BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION

## For Fiscal Year 2022

Primary Applicant (Name and Address):  <b>BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company</b> <b>1120 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue</b> <b>Bloomer, WI 54724</b>	Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, <a href="http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx">http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx</a> . Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions.  Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: <b>March 17, 2022</b> at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. <b>Late applications will not be accepted.</b>	
	Contact for further information: <a href="mailto:PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov">PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov</a>	
	Date: December 1, 2021	
<p>The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.</p> <p><b>Applicant Certification:</b> In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.</p>		
Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kent Klima;</li> <li>Travis McFarlane</li> </ul>	Title  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VP and General Manager;</li> <li>Operations Manager</li> </ul>	Phone <b>(715) 568 - 4830</b>
Signature of Authorized Representative 	Date <b>03/16/2022</b>	

## SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

Primary Applicant Name <b>BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company</b>	Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$444,147</b>
Federal Employer Identification No. <b>39-1904044</b>	Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$212,500</b>
Contact Name and Title <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Kent Klima, VP and General Manager</b></li> <li><b>Travis McFarlane, Operations Manager</b></li> </ul>	Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar) <b>\$656,647</b>
Telephone Number <b>(715) 568-4830</b>	Project Name <b>Bloomer Telephone Co./Town of Colfax-FTTH Phase 3</b>
E-mail Address(es) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>kent.klima@bloomer.net</b></li> <li><b>travis.mcfarlane@bloomer.net</b></li> </ul>	Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.) <b>FTTH</b>
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant	Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other) <b>Last Mile</b>
Grant Manager Contact Name	Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Public-private partnership with the Town of Colfax → FEIN: 39-6022804</b></li> <li><b>Public-private partnership with the Colfax School Board → FEIN: 39-6025159</b></li> <li><b>Public-private partnership with Dunn County → FEIN: 39-1667552</b></li> </ul>	
Brief Project Description (2 sentences) <b>BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company, the Town of Colfax, the Colfax School District, and Dunn County partner to complete a three-phase fiber-to-the-home project in the town of Colfax and its surrounding rural area. The proposed project will provide symmetrical download and upload speeds of 2.5 Gbps and faster to unserved and underserved students within the school district.</b>	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed <b>2.5 Gbps (scalable to be faster)</b>	Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed <b>2.5 Gbps (scalable to be faster)</b>
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location <b>100 Mbps</b>	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location <b>100 Mbps</b>
County or Counties served by this project <b>Dunn County</b>	Community or Communities served by this project <b>Colfax Township</b>

List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve	
<b>CenturyLink</b>	
Does proposed project serve an <u>unserved</u> area of the State, as defined in <a href="#">Section 1.4</a> of the application instruction? (yes/no)	Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no)
<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access).	For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access).
<b>0</b>	<b>79</b>
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <i>unserved</i> ?	Of the improved residential locations, how many are <i>unserved</i> ?
<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no)	Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no)
<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no)	Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no)
<b>Yes (Affordable Connectivity Program)</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no)	
<b>Yes</b>	

## FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application

### Budget & Income Summary



Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

### Grant Summary

Grant Applicant:	Project:
BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company	Bloomer Telephone Co./Town of Colfax-FTTH Phase 3

### Budget

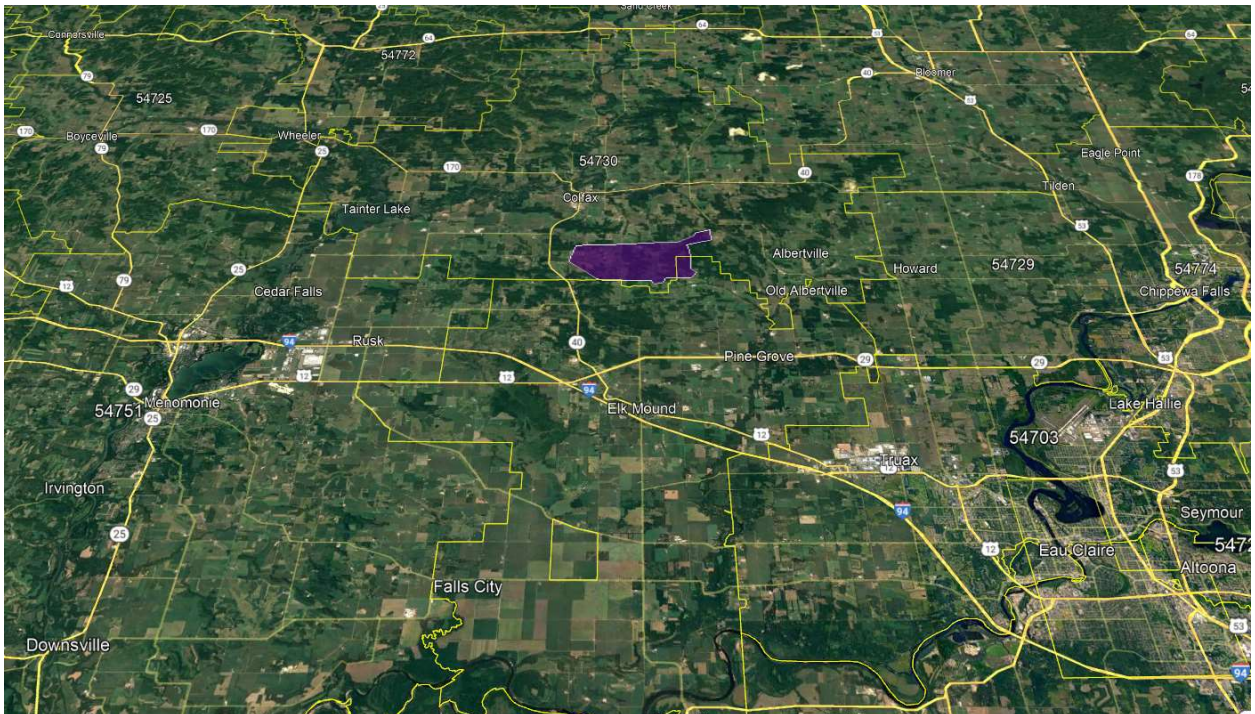
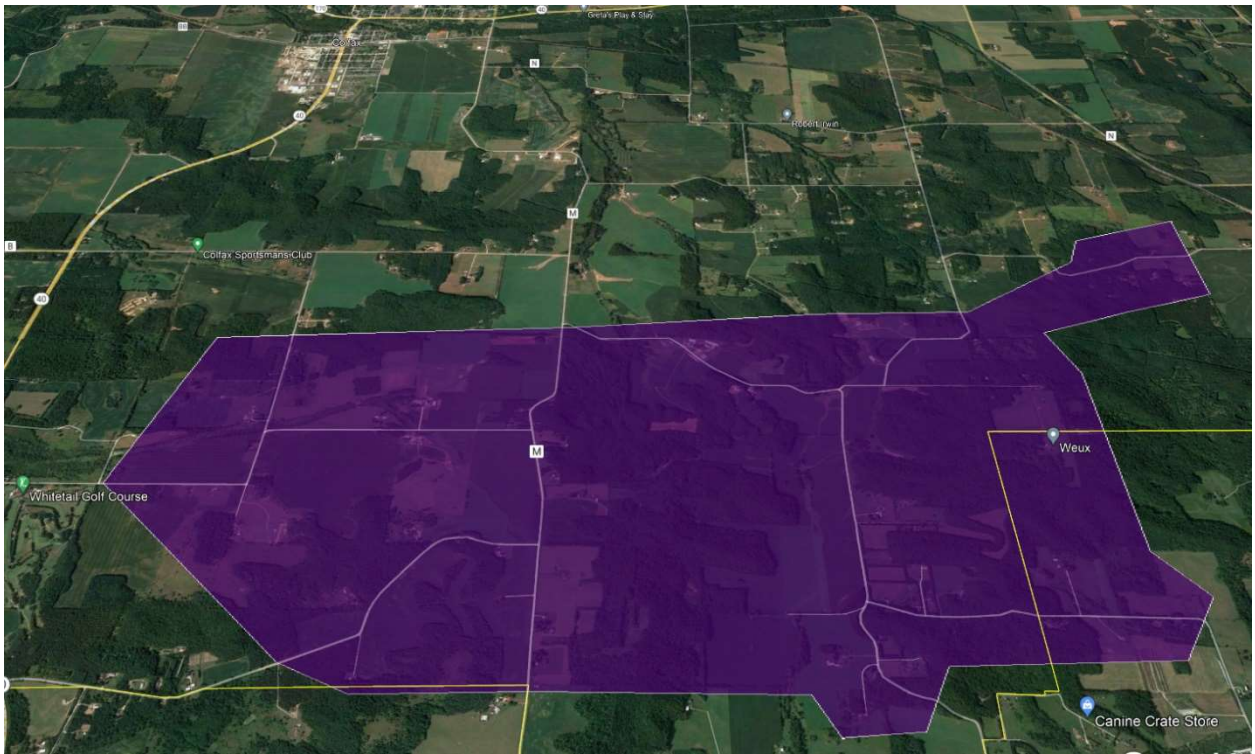
Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$401,416	\$192,056	\$593,472
2	Equipment	\$36,995	\$17,700	\$54,695
3	Supplies			\$ -
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)	\$5,736	\$2,744	\$8,480.00
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees			\$ -
6	Travel			\$ -
7	Other			\$ -
Total:		\$444,147	\$212,500.00	\$656,647
				32.4% match requested

### Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company	Applicant	Cash	\$127,500.00
2	Town of Colfax	Partner	Cash	\$65,000.00
3	Dunn County	Partner	Cash	\$20,000.00
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Total:				\$212,500.00



## Map(s)



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## **Executive Summary**

BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company is proposing a fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) project to serve 79 locations with broadband internet service with 2.5 gigabit speeds in Dunn County, Wisconsin, in the Town of Colfax. This project represents the final phase of a three-phase project to bring FTTH services to students in the Colfax School District. Public-private partnerships have been developed between Bloomer Telephone Company both Dunn County and the Town of Colfax. Together, we are asking the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (the Commission) for \$444,147 (64.67 percent) through the Fiscal Year 2022 Broadband Expansion Grant to match the partnership's \$212,500 contribution.

Bloomer Telephone Company carefully mapped the proposed project area based on the Commission's Broadband Availability Map, the Company's previous maps submitted to the Commission for the Broadband Expansion Grants in 2020 and 2021, and its knowledge of service offerings in the area. Bloomer Telephone Company also contacted each wireline and wireless service provider listed on the Commission's Wisconsin Broadband Coverage Map for the addresses in the proposed project area that lie outside areas designated "underserved" and "unserved." The proposed project area is completely underserved, with only one provider of qualifying broadband services: CenturyLink.

Bloomer Telephone Company is proposing to provide 2.5 Gbps symmetrical FTTH broadband internet services at affordable, competitive rates to the 79 locations in the proposed project area in rural southeastern parts of the Town of Colfax. Bloomer Telephone Company anticipates 61 total subscribers from the project, or a penetration rate of 77 percent, a take rate similar to the first two phases of the project. The locations are mainly households and farms, with some residences likely serving as home offices for those who telework or those who run a small business out of their homes. Bloomer Telephone Company's service offerings in the proposed project area will include a low-cost option, and the Company will participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program.

Access to FTTH services would improve economic and health outcomes in the proposed project area by increasing access to distance learning and remote work opportunities. For students in the proposed project area, a better internet connection with strong upload speeds enables them to be seen and heard clearly in the virtual classroom. For farmers in the proposed project area, FTTH services enable the use of precision agriculture, which benefits both crop and livestock production through increasing sustainability, refining resource allocation, and improving operational efficiency. FTTH access not only benefits current residents, but it attracts prospective residents as well. Increased interest in an area raises property values, furthering opportunities for additional investment in the community.

Bloomer Telephone Company's proposed project will increase competition in an underserved area by providing 2.5 Gbps to areas that have access to only one provider of digital subscriber line (DSL) service. No adverse effect on any current or potential provider in the surrounding area will result from the project, which will bring affordable, high-quality, and high-speed broadband service to an area that desperately needs it.

## **Mandatory Application Requirements**

### **Applicant Identification and Contact Information**

#### *Entity Contact Information*

Name of Entity: BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company  
Mailing Address: 1120 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Bloomer, WI 54724  
Telephone Number: 715-568-4830  
Contact: Kent Klima, Vice President & General Manager  
Email: [kent.klima@bloomer.net](mailto:kent.klima@bloomer.net)

#### *Contact Information for Public-private Partnership Members*

Name of Entity: Dunn County  
Mailing Address: 3001 US Hwy 12 E, Suite 225, Menomonie, WI 54751  
Telephone Number: 715-232-2429  
Contact: David Bartlett, Chair, Dunn County Board of Supervisors  
Email: [admin@co.dunn.wi.us](mailto:admin@co.dunn.wi.us)

Name of Entity: Town of Colfax  
Mailing Address: N8409 County Road M, Colfax, WI 54730  
Telephone Number: 715-962-3616  
Contact: Dean Logslett, Chairman of the Town of Colfax  
Email: [clerk@townofcolfax.com](mailto:clerk@townofcolfax.com)

#### *Demonstrating Partnership Eligibility*

BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company is the subsidiary of an incumbent local exchange carrier that is certified to provide telecommunications services in the State of Wisconsin pursuant to Section 196.5(2)(b) of the Wisconsin State Statutes, with non-exclusive statewide operating authority. Bloomer Telephone Company (PSCW Utility #590) currently serves the Bloomer exchange of Wisconsin in NECA Study Area #330850.

Bloomer Telephone Company currently provides over 2,732 broadband internet subscribers in the City of Bloomer and the surrounding area with up to 1 Gbps symmetrical service using the Company's state-of-the-art fiber-to-the-home Network. Bloomer Telephone Company also provides telephone service to 2,296 subscribers and video services to over 1,154 subscribers using the same network.



## **Description of the Project**

### *Description of the Proposed Project Area*

BTC Communications dba Bloomer Telephone Company is proposing a fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) project to serve 79 locations with broadband internet service with 2.5 gigabit speeds in Dunn County, Wisconsin, in the Town of Colfax. Bloomer Telephone Company will construct 16.7 miles of fiber across 5.21 square miles in the proposed project area. This project represents the final phase of a three-phase project to bring FTTH services to students in the Colfax School District. Public-private partnerships have been developed between Bloomer Telephone Company both Dunn County and the Town of Colfax. Together, we are asking the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (the Commission) for \$444,147 (64.67 percent) in grant funding through the Fiscal Year 2022 Broadband Expansion Grant to match the partnership's \$212,500 contribution.

The population of the Town of Colfax is 1,151, and 45,440 people live in Dunn County, according to the latest U.S. Census Bureau data. Data from the National Center for Education Statistics shows the Colfax School District serves 726 students. In their letter of support, which can be found in Appendix II of this application, the district states that students residing in the rural parts of the District like those in the proposed project area lack access to high-speed internet services and are being left behind.

To provide these students and their neighbors access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband internet, Bloomer Telephone Company has partnered with the Town of Colfax and Dunn County. Phase-one of the Town of Colfax FTTH Project was awarded a grant during the Commission's FY 2020 Broadband Expansion Grant cycle, and phase-two was awarded a grant during the FY 2021 cycle. Awarding Broadband Expansion Grant funds for the third phase of this project would enable the following outcomes:

- the Colfax School District would be able to fully take advantage of their one-laptop-per-student initiative;
- the Town of Colfax would receive much-needed economic investment, resulting in higher home values; and
- the well-being of residents in the proposed project area would improve through access to telemedicine.

### *Documentation Demonstrating Broadband Availability in the Proposed Project Area*

Bloomer Telephone Company designed its proposed project area using the Commission's Broadband Availability Map and selected several areas primarily designated as underserved. However, through information received from residents, technical knowledge of available services, and research performed to evaluate broadband availability, Bloomer Telephone Company believes that the Commission's map contains inaccurate information regarding the availability of broadband services in the proposed project area. Evidenced in Appendix IV of this application, Bloomer Telephone Company used 35 different addresses designated as served by the Commission's map and contacted CenturyLink and T-Mobile regarding the availability of

wireline and wireless services using their website and over the phone. Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile / Sprint were contacted regarding the availability of home mobile internet services as well. A list of addresses used, providers contacted, and providers available in this portion of the proposed project area is included in Appendix IV of this application.

#### *Explanation of how Proposed Project will Increase Broadband Access*

Bloomer Telephone Company's proposed project will serve 76 underserved locations and 3 unserved locations with fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) high-speed internet access in an area where no fiber-based broadband is available for end users. FTTH access offers faster, more reliable access to services that are not limited by aging copper facilities. Using initially deployed customer premise equipment and a direct, in-home network connection, broadband services will be available to residential and business customers starting at speeds of 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload and reaching (and eventually surpassing) 2.5 Gbps download and 2.5 Gbps upload.

Any improvement to a competitor's existing network would simply use a fiber-to-the-node architecture to feed a legacy copper plant to the customer premise, technology that is not scalable to future demand. FTTH technology, alternatively, is scalable to speeds of 10 Gbps and faster. Advertised available download speeds in the proposed project area from CenturyLink range from 0.5 Mbps to 60 Mbps, however, the homes are served with ADSL2 or VDSL. These homes are rural, with long driveways far from the road. Loop length in these areas significantly inhibits customers from receiving advertised speeds.

#### *Statement Regarding Last-Mile Aspect of the Proposed Project*

Bloomer Telephone Company's proposed project includes only distribution and last-mile fiber facilities. The project is an extension of Bloomer's existing fiber network, with dedicated backbone, distribution, feeder, and drop fiber to customer premises. No middle mile infrastructure or costs are included in this grant application. Bloomer Telephone Company currently maintains sufficient middle mile and backhaul facilities, and it has capacity on its existing backbone ring network to deliver high-speed broadband services to all proposed and future last-mile subscribers in the proposed project area.

#### *Description of the Broadband Service to be Provided*

Bloomer Telephone Company will provide high-speed wireline broadband service using a FTTH network design. The proposed network will be an extension of the fiber network currently in place and used in Bloomer Telephone Company's existing service territory. Bloomer Telephone Company will deploy an XGS-PON 10 Gigabits Symmetrical Passive Optical Network (PON). Bandwidth in an XGS-PON network is comprised of 10 Gbps downstream and 10 Gbps upstream, thus symmetrical bandwidths. The bandwidth is shared by all subscribers connected to the PON via a passive optical splitter. Dynamic bandwidth allocation and statistical multiplexing enable more effective bandwidth usage, allowing users higher effective throughput when needed.

The PON architecture is designed for straightforward upgrade to even higher bandwidth PON architectures, using different wavelengths for multiple 10 Gbps signals or even higher bandwidths in the future, without changing out any of the physical infrastructure other than the electronics (laser transmitters and receivers) at the nodes and Optical Network Terminals (ONTs) at the customer premises for those customers who want the especially high bandwidth. Existing PON FTTH subscribers can remain at the deployed system bandwidth or upgrade with no changes to the existing optical fiber PON, other than possibly the insertion of specialty optical isolators at the node that provision for more wavelengths, if needed.

Upon completion of the proposed project, the following service packages will be available:

<b>Residential &amp; Business Service Offerings</b>		
<b>Download Speeds</b>	<b>Upload Speeds</b>	<b>Monthly Price</b>
100 Mbps	100 Mbps	\$49.95
250 Mbps	250 Mbps	\$79.95
500 Mbps	250 Mbps	\$129.95
1 Gbps	250 Mbps	\$199.95

As previously stated, speeds greater than those listed are possible with the network architecture Bloomer Telephone Company will implement in the proposed project area, with pricing and service packages yet to be established.

To facilitate e-learning opportunities, improve access to telemedicine and work-from-home employment, and help the Colfax School District take advantage of their 1:1 laptop to student ratio, Bloomer Telephone Company will offer service packages with symmetrical speeds, in addition to a 100 Mbps symmetrical low-cost option that becomes less than \$20 per month when the subscriber is a participant in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and receives the program's \$30 a month discount.

When compared to the Federal Communications Commission's 2022 Broadband Reasonable Comparability Benchmark Calculator, the affordability of Bloomer Telephone Company's rates becomes clear. The US Benchmark Rate for 100 Mbps symmetrical is \$96.47 per month, over 93 percent more expensive than Bloomer Telephone Company's monthly rate for the same service. For 250 Mbps symmetrical, the US Benchmark Rate is \$110.53, over 38 percent more expensive than the proposed project's rates.

Voice-over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) services and video services will be available for subscribers upon request as an optional service.

### *Proposed Project Schedule*

If Bloomer Telephone Company's application is approved by the Commission by the end of August 2022, the following deployment schedule will be used to complete the proposed project:

- September 2022 – April of 2022 → Order and stage equipment
- May – November of 2023 → Bury new fiber facilities
- Aug – Nov of 2023 → Install electronics
- Dec of 2023 → Begin services

### **Itemized Budget**

Appendix III of this application and the table below summarize the itemized equipment costs for the proposed network in a price list. All construction and installation costs will be managed by Bloomer Telephone Company. The company will use internal employees and trusted third party contractors that the company has successfully used in similar fiber construction projects. The proposed network infrastructure will be owned by Bloomer Telephone Company.

Bloomer Telephone Company's application complies with all budgetary and financial requirements under the FY 2022 Broadband Expansion Grant program. Grant funds requested in this application will only be used for authorized services. Ongoing expenses or monthly bills of telecommunications subscribers will not be subsidized with grant funds. Bloomer Telephone Company affirms that all grant funds requested in this application will be used for the sole purpose of constructing broadband infrastructure in the underserved proposed project area.

#### **Budget Detail**

Description / Category		
	Detail	Overall
<b>Construction/Consulting Fees</b>		\$ 593,472.04
*Buried fiber network of 17miles of 12 to 96 fiber strand cable, including splicing, pedestals, handholes and equipment & engineering costs		
<b>Equipment-detail below</b>		\$ 54,694.78
*1 Splitter cabinet and splitters	\$ 10,481.15	
*XGS-PON shelf, blade, sfps	\$ 30,704.98	
*ONT'S	\$ 13,508.65	
<b>Labor (Salary, Fringe)</b>		\$ 8,480.00
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$ 656,646.82</b>

## **Priority Factors Supporting the Application**

### **Matching Funds**

The financial contributions of the Town of Colfax, Dunn County, and Bloomer Telephone Company amount to \$212,500, or 32.36 percent of the \$656,647 project. The Town of Colfax will provide \$65,000, Dunn County will provide \$20,000, and Bloomer Telephone Company will provide \$127,500 in matching funds. In addition, the Town of Colfax is making an in-kind contribution to the proposed project in the form of waiving all the normal fees and expenses for obtaining permits or permissions required from the Town Board.

### **Public-private Partnerships**

Bloomer Telephone's public-private partnerships demonstrate the level of community support the company has garnered for the project. The partnerships were developed in collaboration with the Dunn County Board of Supervisors and the Town of Colfax Board, who have both pledged to support the project through providing financial assistance, granting permission on and across property to construct the proposed project, and prioritizing the project in internal planning documents. The Town of Colfax will also provide in-kind donations to waive certain fees and expenses normally required for construction projects. Public-private partnership agreements have been included with this application in Appendix I. Commitment letters from partners have been included in Appendix IV.

### **Existing Broadband Service**

Bloomer Telephone Company designed its proposed project area using the Commission's Broadband Availability Map and selected several areas primarily designated as underserved. However, through information received from residents, technical knowledge of available services, and research performed to evaluate broadband availability, Bloomer Telephone Company believes that the Commission's map contains inaccurate information regarding the availability of broadband services in the proposed project area.

According to the Commission's map, the area is served by CenturyLink DSL, T-Mobile Fixed Wireless, HughesNet, ViaSat, T-Mobile/Sprint Home Internet, AT&T Home Internet, and Verizon Wireless. Evidenced in Appendix IV of this application, Bloomer Telephone Company used 35 different addresses designated as served by the Commission's map and contacted CenturyLink and T-Mobile regarding the availability of wireline and wireless services. Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile / Sprint were contacted regarding the availability of home mobile internet services as well. The only provider of qualifying broadband service (25 Mbps / 3 Mbps) available in the proposed project area is CenturyLink.

Every address tested in the proposed project area had an existing CenturyLink account. Advertised speeds ranged from 3 Mbps download and 500 Kbps upload to 60 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. A spreadsheet of addresses used, providers contacted, and providers available in this portion of the proposed project area has been included in Appendix II of this application.

Bloomer Telephone Company's application avoids duplicating existing broadband infrastructure as no FTTH services exist in the proposed project area. ADSL2 and VDSL technology currently serve the 79 locations on a wireline network.

## **Project Impact**

Bloomer Telephone is proposing to provide 2.5 Gbps symmetrical fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) broadband internet services at affordable, competitive rates to the 79 locations in the proposed project area in rural southeastern parts of Dunn County in the Town of Colfax, Wisconsin. Bloomer Telephone Company anticipates 61 total subscribers from the project, or a penetration rate of 77 percent.

Bloomer Telephone Company's proposed project area lies in an isolated, rural area, beginning just east of State Highway 40 and 760<sup>th</sup> Avenue and extending eastward to 780<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The terrain features deciduous and mixed forests, herbaceous and woody wetlands, and developed residential areas. Data from the United States Department of Agriculture's CroplandCROS map indicates many farms exist in the proposed project area. These farms grow alfalfa, beans, corn, livestock, oats, rye, and soybeans.

To serve the proposed project area, Bloomer Telephone Company will provide high-speed wireline broadband service using a FTTH network design. Service packages will include: 100 Mbps symmetrical for \$49.95 per month, 250 Mbps symmetrical for \$79.95 per month, 500 Mbps x 250 Mbps for \$129.95 per month, 1 Gbps by 250 Mbps for \$199.95 per month (symmetrical upgrade available), and 2.5 Gbps symmetrical for a to-be-determined price. Speeds greater than those listed are possible with the network architecture Bloomer Telephone Company will implement in the proposed project area. Pricing for these service packages have yet to be established.

For low-income individuals and families, Bloomer Telephone Company will participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which will provide up to \$30 per month in discounts for broadband internet services. With that discount, Bloomer Telephone Company's low-cost 100 Mbps symmetrical service offering becomes \$19.95 per month. ACP discounts will be offered to every subscriber in the proposed project area, and instructions on how to apply will be added to Bloomer Telephone Company's website.



## **Scalability**

Bloomer Telephone's proposed project will offer the same FTTH services it offers in its current service area while increasing the number of users the Company serves by 2.8 percent, adding no new nodes to the network while serving 5.21 square miles. The proposed project will deploy an XGS-PON 10 Gigabits Symmetrical Passive Optical Network (PON). Bandwidth in an XGS-PON network is comprised of 10 Gbps downstream and 10 Gbps upstream, thus symmetrical bandwidths. The bandwidth is shared by all subscribers connected to the PON via a passive optical splitter. Dynamic bandwidth allocation and statistical multiplexing enable more effective bandwidth usage, allowing users higher effective throughput when needed.

The PON architecture is designed for straightforward upgrade to even higher bandwidth PON architectures, using different wavelengths for multiple 10 Gbps signals or even higher bandwidths in the future, without changing out any of the physical infrastructure other than the electronics (laser transmitters and receivers) at the nodes and Optical Network Terminals (ONTs) at the customer premises for those customers who want the especially high bandwidth. Existing PON FTTH subscribers can remain at the deployed system bandwidth or upgrade with no changes to the existing optical fiber PON, other than possibly the insertion of specialty optical isolators at the node that provision for more wavelengths, if needed.

The proposed project is intended to grow to ultimately accommodate all future residential and business in the proposed project area. The project will initially deploy ultrafast broadband services over fiber facilities suitable for broadband at practically unlimited speeds, well in excess of the state's threshold of 25 Mbps / 3 Mbps. Expansion and improvement of services over time will include:

- Installing battery backup power, upon request, when voice services are provided and complying with all future state and federal requirements regarding battery replacement;
- Adhering to mandated increases in the speed and latency requirements of broadband services; and
- Participating in the Federal Communications Commissions' Affordable Connectivity Program to provide low-income customers with a discount on broadband services.

Bloomer Telephone Company is committed to bringing FTTH services to rural Wisconsin. Multi-phase projects to Bloomer and Colfax have been completed, and expansion efforts in other areas are still underway. Bloomer Telephone Company will continue to expand its network with the Commission's support.

## **Economic Development**

A fiber-to-the-home connection creates significant potential for economic development, particularly in rural, sparsely populated areas. Like a telephone connection 70 years ago, access to the latest communication technology provides opportunity for commerce, education, and access to vital services like healthcare. Bloomer Telephone Company's proposed project will

provide 79 locations with access to FTTH services, improving economic, educational, and health outcomes in the proposed project area. By increasing access to distance learning, remote work opportunities, and telemedicine, the proposed project will have a strong, positive effect on the local economy. As identified in the letters of support provided in Appendix II of this application, high-speed internet is desperately needed in the proposed project area, particularly to support video conferencing technology.

FTTH's high speeds and reliable connection will enable children and adults alike to easily take advantage of distance learning opportunities, which is vital to economic development. Investing in educational opportunities ensures prosperity for future generations through a skilled, diversified workforce. High upload speeds made possible with a FTTH connection will enable individuals in the proposed project area to attend and participate in virtual classes offered at the University of Wisconsin-Stout in nearby Menomonie or at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. For students in the proposed project area that attend a Colfax public school, a reliable connection will enable full use of the devices the students were provided during the second phase of Bloomer Telephone Company's Town of Colfax FTTH project. FTTH service will allow students to complete their homework without fear of an interrupted or slowed network connection. The impact on educational attainment in the proposed project area is expected to help retain talented students and employees, leading to a larger tax base and additional job opportunities.

Many individuals in the proposed project area work in the information, finance, and health insurance industries and could perform their job functions from home. With this type of client-focused work, video conferencing is a frequent part of conducting business. Like with distance learning, high upload speeds are necessary to adequately participate in a video conference meeting. Current levels of service available in the proposed project area leave residents with little choice in internet service provider, with many using mobile hotspot technology to access the internet via their cellular device. This type of service quickly becomes prohibitively expensive. With a FTTH connection, telecommuting becomes more feasible, which in turn makes homes in the proposed project area more valuable.

Affordable, high-speed internet access not only benefits current residents, but it attracts potential residents as well. With increased interest in an area comes higher real estate values, larger property taxes, and more opportunities for further community investment. Researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater found that access to gigabit internet services like the proposed project increase the value of a home by thousands of dollars, equivalent to the addition of a fireplace or approximately half the value of adding a bathroom. Studies from the University of Colorado and Carnegie Mellon University have confirmed these findings. The Wall Street Journal, *How Fast Internet Affects Home Prices*, Ryan Knutson (June 2015). <https://web.archive.org/web/20201021095911/https://www.wsj.com/articles/how-fast-internet-affects-home-pricesfast-internet-access-can-boost-a-homes-value-1435694077?tesla=y>).

## **Effect on Broadband Service to Adjacent Areas**

Bloomer Telephone Company's proposed project will increase competition in an underserved area by providing 2.5 Gbps to areas that have access to only one provider of digital subscriber line (DSL) service. Neither fixed wireless providers nor mobile home internet providers been identified as serving the proposed project area. No adverse effect on any current or potential provider in the surrounding area will result from the project, which will bring affordable, high-quality, and high-speed broadband service to an area that desperately needs it.

## **Other Information Supporting the Application**

### **History of Broadband Construction Projects**

Bloomer Telephone Company has served the Bloomer area since 1901 and has provided high-speed internet services since 1996. In 2006, Bloomer Telephone Company began a fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) project in its incumbent-local-exchange (ILEC) area. By 2017, 100 percent of customers in the ILEC area were using this FTTH service. Bloomer Telephone Company now serves 2,732 locations with FTTH and continues to extend their fiber network to rural customers in the surrounding communities.

Between 2018 and 2022, Bloomer Telephone Company has applied and secured grant funding for six separate Broadband Expansion Grants through the Commission to provide FTTH services. They include a \$2.49 million project to serve 205 locations in the Town of Eagle Point, a \$1.26 million project to serve 100 locations in the Town of Tilden, a \$1.25 million to serve 227 locations in the Town of Colfax (phase one), a \$1.90 million project to serve 475 locations in the Town of Colfax (phase two), a \$718K project to serve 113 locations in Bloomer School District (phase one), and a \$1.33 million project to serve 255 locations in Bloomer School District (phase two). These projects have had a take rate of approximately 75 percent.

### **Statement Regarding Proposed Project and Duplicative Infrastructure**

Bloomer Telephone Company's proposed project does not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure. Residents in the proposed project areas uniformly say they have no access to fast broadband from their incumbent provider. It is Bloomer Telephone Company's belief that these locations are at the edge of the incumbent provider's exchange and that advertised speeds do not match possible speeds.

## **Financial Ability to Undertake the Proposed Project**

Bloomer Telephone Company has demonstrated its financial preparedness and operational skills through the completion of four of the Commission's Broadband Expansion Grant awards, with two more currently underway. The company has offered state-of-the-art telecommunications services since operations began in 1901. Bloomer Telephone Company's success in completing and surpassing adoption targets on its Broadband Expansion Grant awards provides additional proof of the Company's strong financial and operational capabilities. All revenues have been reported to the Commission under the Annual Questionnaire for Telecommunications Utilities that describes regulated and non-regulated revenues.

## **Impact of Proposed Project on Access to Telemedicine**

Access to telemedicine would greatly improve public health outcomes in the proposed project area. Due to the rurality of the proposed area, the nearest hospital is over 20 miles away to the south in Eau Claire. The nearest doctor is over 17 miles away in Menomonie. Residents in these areas need access to high speeds for video conferencing to see the doctor as easily as someone who lives in the city. For elderly residents especially, transportation over such distances can be quite difficult. At-home virtual visits lessen the strain on patients and those who care for them.

More virtual healthcare appointments means less people visiting hospitals and healthcare facilities in person, reducing the spread of disease and easing the strain on the facility's resources. Telemedicine services in Eau Claire from Privea, Mayo Clinic, Marshfield Clinic, and St. Joseph / Sacred Heart will be readily available over the proposed network. This is an important feature of high-speed internet for many subscribers in the communities Bloomer Telephone Company serves.

## **Impact of Proposed Project on Access to Educational Opportunities from Home**

Access to high speeds and a reliable connection will enable children and adults alike to easily take advantage of distance learning opportunities in the proposed project area. Approximately 19.5 percent of the population in Dunn County is between the ages of 5 and 18, indicating the tremendous need for increased access to distance education. However, as evidenced by the letter of support from Colfax School District supplied in Appendix I, children in rural communities like the proposed project area lack access to adequate internet services and are consequently being left behind.

Video conferencing has become vital to administering education across distances and under difficult circumstances, such as the COVID 19 pandemic. In the wake of having to operate virtually, some school districts are opting to replace snow days with virtual school days. To ensure these students can adequately participate in their classroom video conferences and complete their homework at home no matter the circumstances, a strong internet connection and high speeds are needed.

High upload speeds made possible with a FTTH connection will enable students to attend and participate in virtual classes, including those offered at the University of Wisconsin-Stout in nearby Menomonie or at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. For students in the proposed project area that attend a Colfax public school, a reliable connection will enable full use of the devices the students were provided during the second phase of Bloomer Telephone Company's Town of Colfax FTTH project. The services Bloomer Telephone Company will provide will allow students to complete their homework without fear of an interrupted or slowed network connection.

## **Other Equitable Factors**

Bloomer Telephone Company has provided services for over 100 years. During that time, it has developed relationships with equipment providers, local construction crews, consultants, and providers of capital. To demonstrate the relationships Bloomer Telephone Company has developed in the community, letters of support for the proposed project have been collected and included in full in Appendix I. These letters detail the immense need for high-speed internet in the proposed project area, and describe potential benefits to educational attainment, economic development, and public health in the community. Bloomer Telephone Company's proposed project will allow children to learn at home in the same way as their urban counterparts, increase home values, make telemedicine a reality for many, and increase the area's attractiveness to new residents and businesses.

Bloomer Telephone Company is committed to supporting broadband adoption and does so through door-to-door campaigns to sign residents up for affordable high-speed internet. For subscribers, the Company provides top-notch technical support from local experts and maintains a resource library detailing troubleshooting options for connecting to and using the internet. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bloomer Telephone Company also provided free hotspots to the community and partnered with the Bloomer School District to bring its students fast, affordable internet to support distance learning efforts.

Bloomer Telephone Company and its partners on the proposed project are deeply involved with bringing broadband to rural Wisconsin. The Town of Colfax and Dunn County are both Telecommuter Forward! communities, and Dunn County is also a Broadband Forward! community. With the Commission's support, this project can enact real change for the people of Colfax and Dunn County.

## **Appendix**

- Appendix I – Letters of Support
- Appendix II – Broadband Availability in the Proposed Project Area
- Appendix III – Itemized Budget
- Appendix IV – Public-private Partnership Letters



## Appendix I. Letters of Support



# School District of Colfax

601 UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
COLFAX, WISCONSIN 54730  
PHONE: 715-962-3155 FAX: 715-962-4024



*Respect - Responsibility - Results*

W. C. YINGST, JR.  
SUPERINTENDENT  
wyingst@colfax.k12.wi.us  
715-962-3773

J. E. DACHEL  
MS/HS PRINCIPAL  
dachel@colfax.k12.wi.us  
715-962-3155

T. P. HOVDE  
ELEM PRINCIPAL  
hovde@colfax.k12.wi.us  
715-962-3676

P. B. RUDI  
DIRECTOR OF  
SPECIAL EDUCATION  
pollyrudi@colfax.k12.wi.us  
715-962-3676

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
TODD KRAGNESS  
PRESIDENT

KENNETH NEUBURG  
VICE-PRESIDENT

ANDREW DE MOE  
CLERK

KYLE KNUTSON  
TREASURER

JACLYN ACKERLUND  
DIRECTOR

KENNETH BJORK  
DIRECTOR

JODI KIEKHAFFER  
DIRECTOR

Mr. Kent Klima  
Bloomer Telephone Company  
1120 15th Ave,  
Bloomer, WI 54724

The intent of this letter to express our support for broadband expansion for the Bloomer Telephone Company, to be awarded grant money to expand their fiber services in the School District of Colfax. We are a 1:1 school with over 1,000 chrome books purchased, at \$300 each, for a total expenditure of over \$300,000 with each child receiving a Chromebook to complete their work at school and to include completing their work at home. We see a definite disparity in broadband services between urban and rural children, with the rural children being left behind. There is currently no equitable access to broadband in our outlying areas, with our children struggling to receive enough, if any, internet service to perform needed tasks such as assignments or research for projects. The need for broadband is paramount, not only for our children, but the overall health of the district. This access makes our area more attractive to prospective businesses and homebuyers, increasing our student base, and in-turn increasing our economic viability to the area. We wholeheartedly support this initiative, indicated by our Private/Public Partnership with Bloomer Telephone Company. Please, strongly consider the Bloomer Telephone Company for this grant, our children's future is dependent on it.

Yours Truly,

William Yingst  
Superintendent  
School District of Colfax

The School District of Colfax prohibits discrimination against any person in employment, educational programs and activities on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, ancestry or national origin, age, creed, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, or disability, genetic information or any other basis prohibited by law.

**COUNTY OF DUNN**



Office of County Board Chair

David Bartlett  
Chair, Dunn County Board of Supervisors  
3001 US Hwy 12, East, Suite 225  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
(715) 232-2429  
[admin@co.dunn.wi.us](mailto:admin@co.dunn.wi.us)

March 10, 2022

Greg Dowling, President  
President  
Bloomer Telephone Company  
1120 15th Ave.  
Bloomer, WI 54724

**RE: Rural Broadband Project Support**

Dear Mr. Dowling:

The Dunn County Board of Supervisors previously approved distribution of up to \$100,000 for rural broadband expansion grant applications received by Dunn County through March 4, 2022. A copy of the Resolution is attached for your records.

Your application for grant funds from Dunn County for the following project was timely received, and was reviewed by the Community Resources and Tourism Committee on March 7, 2022:

*Broadband Expansion - Town of Colfax Phase 3*

Support for your application to the State of Wisconsin for grant funds has been approved. Dunn County has approved providing \$20,000 in funding for the project if it is approved by the State of Wisconsin.

Very truly yours,

  
David Bartlett  
Chair, Dunn County Board of Supervisors

**TOWN OF COLFAX  
BOARD Meeting Minutes**

**July 13, 2021**

Held at Colfax Town Hall and also Zoom

Dean called the meeting to order

Roll call – All present

Jason made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Gary seconded the motion.

Kent Klima from Bloomer Telephone came to discuss a proposed broadband expansion which would bring high speed fiber optic to 70 households that currently have limited internet service. Jason made a motion to allocate \$65,000 of our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds towards this project. Dean seconded the motion.

Jason made a motion to pay the bills. Gary seconded the motion.

The next monthly board meeting was set for Aug 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

Dean made a motion to adjourn. Gary seconded the motion.



Commissioner Ellen Nowak  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
North Tower - 6th Floor  
Madison, Wisconsin 53705-9100

March 8, 2022

RE: Support For Towns of Colfax/Elk Mound Grant

Dear Ms. Nowak,

On behalf of the Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation, I am writing in support of Bloomer Telephone Company's grant applications to expand broadband within the Towns of Colfax, Tilden, Eagle Point, Lafayette, Hallie, and Seymour. These projects will add approximately 225 miles of broadband fiber to underserved areas of Chippewa County.

As you know, there is a positive relationship between broadband expansion and economic growth, especially in areas with lower population densities. The residents of rural Chippewa County work for varying areas of business, including agriculture, information, finance, and health insurance companies, and would benefit greatly from this broadband access development.

In addition to the workforce, students in public schools will also greatly benefit from having access to fast and reliable broadband connections. It is crucial for a community to invest in their future workforce, which comprises of public and private schools at all levels. Broadband Internet access allows students to conduct research outside their library, take part in online learning programs across the country, and expand their learning beyond the classroom.

Additionally, many modern businesses and industries rely on broadband in order to successfully operate. The absence of strong broadband connection encourages talent that is being produced from Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) and UW-Stout to find work and start businesses elsewhere. The expansion of broadband to rural areas will ensure that Wisconsin does not fall behind in economic and technology development, and that the area stays just as successful as an urban or suburban area.

I urge that the Public Service Commission (PSC) approve the Broadband Expansion Grant applications submitted by Bloomer Telephone Company, and look forward to answering your questions about our support for this project.

Sincerely,

Charlie Walker  
President/CEO  
Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation



## ROB SUMMERFIELD

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 67<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

March 9, 2022

Chairperson Rebecca Valcq  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Chairperson Valcq,

I strongly support Bloomer Telephone Company's broadband expansion grant application to help fund their project in the Township of Colfax in Dunn County in the 67<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

As the representative of the 67<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, I know my constituents would greatly benefit from reliable broadband connection. Broadband is critically important to residents' ability to work or learn remotely and utilize telehealth. The broadband access this grant will provide will be a significant investment in the long-term quality of life and prosperity of the area.

The people of Colfax know how beneficial this grant can be, which is why the Township of Colfax and Dunn County have already pledged funds towards the project. This project is proactive and will provide residents with all the emerging opportunities that broadband connection can bring.

My constituents and I thank you for your fair and full consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rob Summerfield", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Rep. Rob Summerfield  
67<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53703

Rachel A. Torgerson  
Resident of Town of Colfax  
N7572 County Road M  
Colfax, WI 54730  
715-531-7402

March 7, 2022

Dear Mr. McFarlane:

Please accept this letter as my strong support and plea for Bloomer Telephone to expand fiber internet capabilities to our area.

Internet capability in our area is very challenging. When we moved to our current residence in October 2020, we explored internet options. We realized that we do not have the luxury of quality broadband internet through cable or DSL, since the lag time associated with these are very high. Therefore, we must use a WiFi connection and mobile devices provided through our mobile carrier. As you can imagine, these come with data caps and overage charges/fees that have become very expensive.

I am a full-time working mother of three school-aged children. I have been working from home since March 2020 (onset of the pandemic) and my job requires quality internet capabilities to allow me to participate in video conferencing for most of my day. My employer provides me with a mobile phone with my job, which allows me to utilize that mobile device hotspot to work from home.

The preferred mobile carrier of my employer was Verizon up until May 2021 and then they switched to T-Mobile. When they switched, I found that I had lost all connectivity to work through the hotspot. My IT department asked me to run a speedtest and found that with T-Mobile hotspot at my current residence, my download speed was 1.54 Mbps and upload speed was 0.05 Mbps (see attached). I was forced to get an exception from my employer to migrate back to Verizon because of this. But even Verizon does not give me the greatest speeds either (download 0.56 Mbps and upload 0.62 Mbps – see attached). Therefore, I spend much of my day bouncing back and forth between my employer mobile hotspot and our home mobile internet provider, AT&T.

We have found AT&T to have a better internet capability (speed test indicates download 31.63 Mbps and upload 1.90 Mbps – see attached), but the overage costs and fees become too



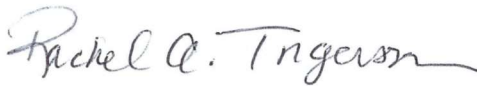
expensive to sustain. For example, there have been several months since October 2020 where my employer mobile hotspot could not give me the bandwidth to do my job, so I had to bounce back and forth with my home internet provider. This has resulted in our personal mobile carrier monthly invoices to exceed \$400 and even \$500 at times...all because of overage costs associated to our internet. Needless to say, it is frustrating and stressful.

I also have three school-aged children who require reliable internet connectivity for their education. Between their educational needs, and my job, our current internet capability is strained and financially not sustainable. I have recently learned from my employer that we will be returning to a hybrid working environment, where I will be working out of my home 3-4 days each week. So, without fiber internet capability, my current situation will only get worse.

I am pleading with you and Bloomer Telephone to consider expanding fiber-speed internet in our area (including our residence) so that we may benefit from its capabilities. Doing so would alleviate the financial burden we experience today with overages/fees associated to our current WiFi mobile internet, as well as eliminate the stress of not having the internet speed and connectivity to do my job or continue educating my children. Please, please help us!

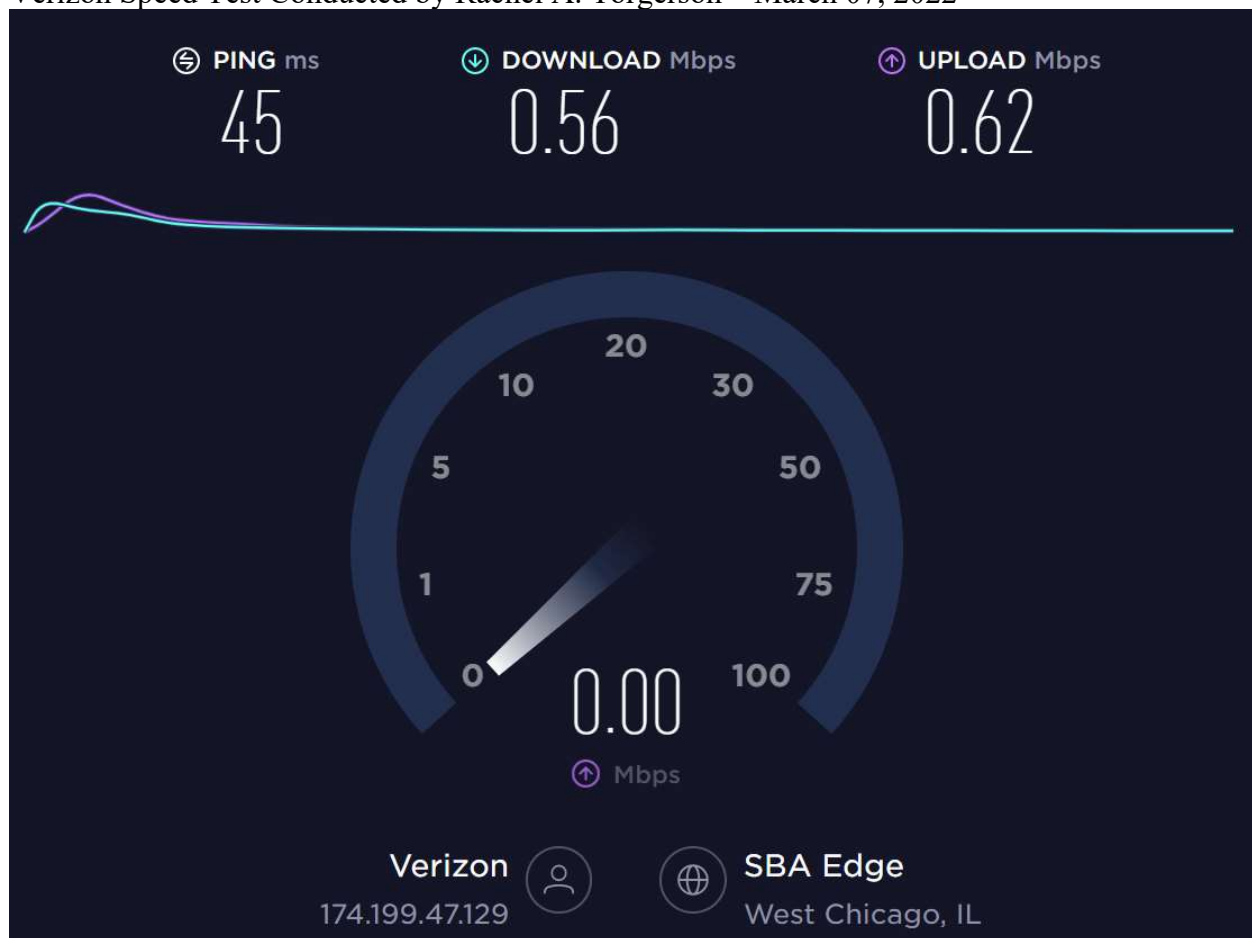
Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

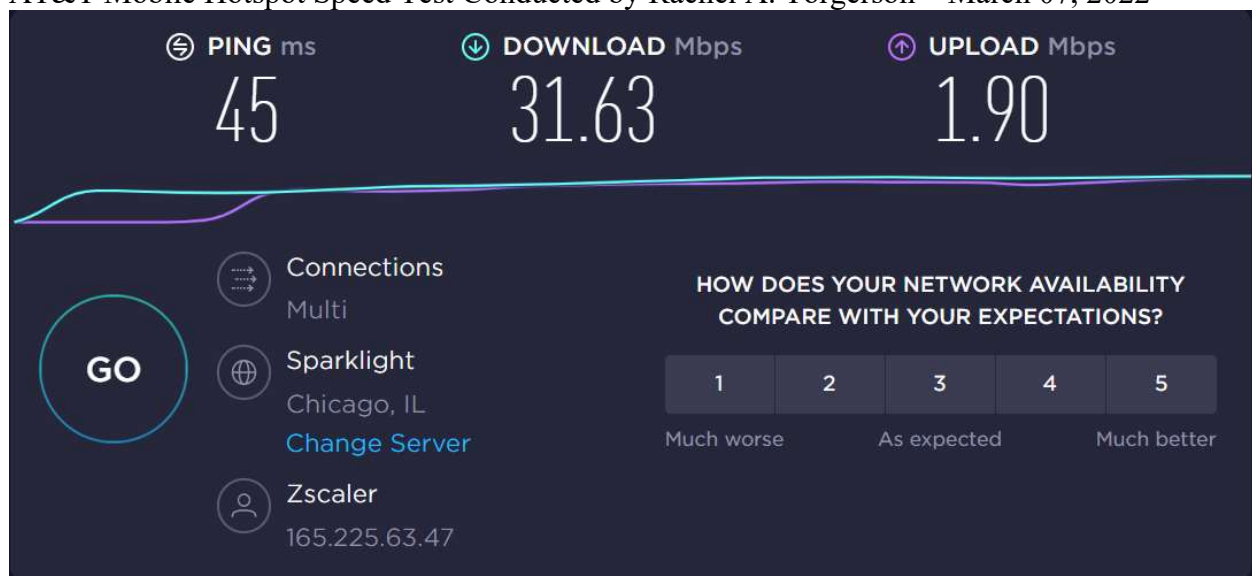
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel A. Torgerson".

Rachel A. Torgerson  
N7572 County Road M  
Colfax, WI 54730  
715-531-7402

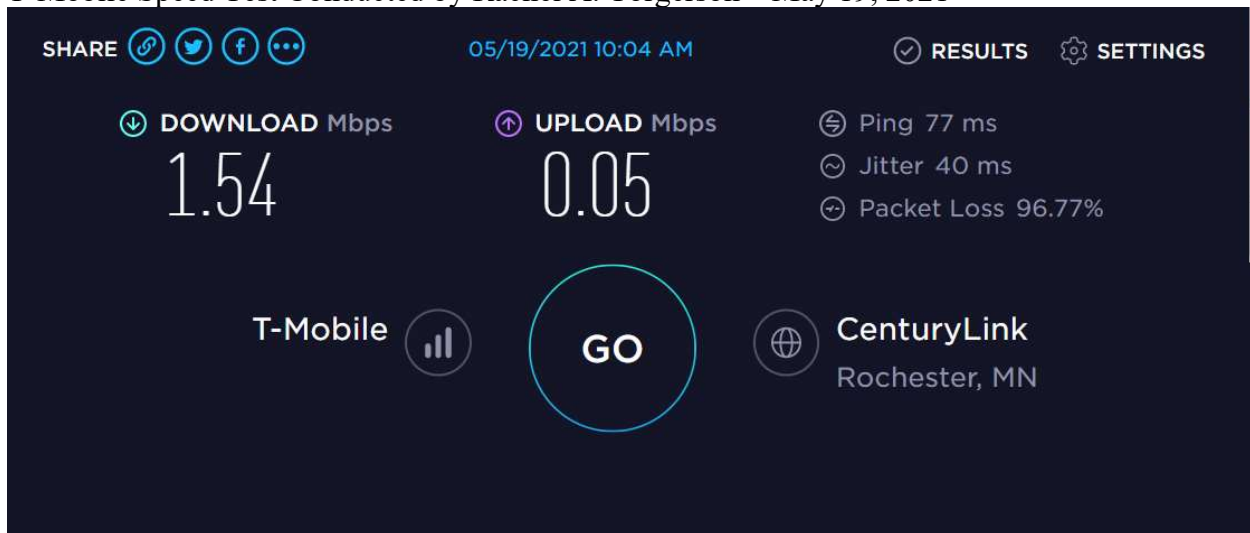
Verizon Speed Test Conducted by Rachel A. Torgerson – March 07, 2022



AT&T Mobile Hotspot Speed Test Conducted by Rachel A. Torgerson – March 07, 2022



T-Mobile Speed Test Conducted by Rachel A. Torgerson – May 19, 2021



## Appendix II. Broadband Availability in the Proposed Project Area

Street Address	City	State	Zip Code	ISPs Listed on PSC Broadband Map	ISPs Providing Service	Qualified as Underserved
E9760 780th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9788 780th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9785 780th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9771 780th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9727 780th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9710 780th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9685 780th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9679 780th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes

E9649 780th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
N7821 970th Street	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
N7899 970th Street	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9275 780th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
N7325 950th Street	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
N7315 950th Street	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
N7377 950th Street	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9534 734th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
N7356 950th Street	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes

E9542 740th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9525 740th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9561 740th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9563 740th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
N7484 950th Street	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
N7554 950th Street	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
N9355 754th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9486 780th Ave	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLinkT-Mobile Fixed WirelessT- Mobile/SprintVerizonAT& T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9398 780th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes

E9920 810th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9942 810th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9951 810th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9948 810th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E10013 810th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E10037 810th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E10050 810th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E10048 810th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes
E9966 810th Avenue	Colfax	WI	54730	CenturyLink T-Mobile Fixed Wireless T-Mobile/Sprint Verizon AT&T	CenturyLink	Yes

### Appendix III. Itemized Cost List

#### Budget Detail

Description / Category		
	Detail	Overall
<b>Contruction/Consulting Fees</b>		\$ 593,472
*Buried fiber network of 17miles of 12 to 96 fiber strand cable, including splicing, pedestals, handholes and equipment & engineering costs		
<b>Equipment-detail below</b>		\$ 54,695
*1 Splitter cabinet and splitters	\$ 10,481	
*XGS-PON shelf, blade, sfps	\$ 30,705	
*ONT'S	\$ 13,509	
<b>Labor (Salary, Fringe)</b>		\$ 8,480.00
Total:		\$ 656,647



## Appendix IV. Public Private Partnership Letters



### **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**By and between the Town of Colfax, Wisconsin, and Bloomer Telephone Company**

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022 by and among the Participating Parties (defined below) located in the State of Wisconsin (the "State") which, through their duly authorized representatives, have signed this agreement.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Colfax, a political subdivision of the State of Wisconsin, seeks to help and provide resources and the support necessary for economic development for this project; and

**WHEREAS**, Bloomer Telephone Company, a Wisconsin corporation doing business in the Township, proposes to expand broadband capability to reach un-served and underserved residences, businesses and farms in the Town of Colfax where such service is currently unavailable or is prohibitively expensive; and

**WHEREAS**, it is currently expected that the proposed broadband expansion would be constructed in areas within Colfax Township, Dunn County, Wisconsin and enhanced broadband access and availability will be utilized to position the Town of Colfax for desirable economic growth through addressing existing service disparities; and

**WHEREAS**, to further support its application for the State broadband funding grant, Docket Number 5-BF-2022, the Bloomer Telephone Company has requested that the Town of Colfax enter into an agreement, referred to as a Public-Private Partnership Agreement, to assist in the Project by:

- **Providing Financial and in-kind assistance to the Project**, in the form Federal, State, County and Township provided funding through the American Rescue Plan Act Broadband Access Grant program, waiving all of the normal fees and expenses for obtaining permits or permissions required from the Town Board;
- **Grant permission on and across Township property**, to engage in activities to construct the Project in compliance with all existing rules and regulations;
- **Recognizing that the Project is a priority**, and is consistent with any internal planning documents adopted by the Colfax Town Board.

1120 15th Avenue  
Bloomer, Wisconsin 54724

715-568-4830  
Bloomer.net | 

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

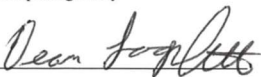


NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and among the Parties as follows:

1. **Records.** The Town of Colfax will maintain and be the custodian of all records associated with the administering and performance of this Agreement and will make those records available upon request.
2. **Reporting.** The Bloomer Telephone Company shall meet with the Colfax Town Board on a semi-annual basis for the purposes of presenting an oral report on the status of the Project. The date, time and place of such meeting shall be determined cooperatively among the parties. No fewer than seven (7) days prior to such meeting, the Bloomer Telephone Company shall provide a report regarding siting and construction progress with respect to the Project.
3. **Effective Date.** This agreement shall become effective upon its adoption and shall remain in full force and effect until terminated as provided herein.
4. **New Members.** After the effective date of this Agreement, additional municipalities may join in this Agreement.
5. **Termination.** This Agreement shall be deemed terminated by any party upon thirty (30) days written notice requesting termination of this Agreement in whole or in part.
6. **Severability.** The terms of this Agreement are severable and any determination by any court or agency having jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Agreement that results in the invalidity of any part shall not affect the remainder of the Agreement.
7. **Amendments.** The terms of this Agreement shall not be amended without the written authorization of the governing bodies of all the Participating Parties.
8. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Wisconsin.
9. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

**TOWN OF Colfax, COUNTY OF Dunn, WI**

A Participating Party

By: 

Dean Logslett – TOWN OF Colfax Chairperson

Date: March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**BLOOMER TELEPHONE COMPANY**

A Participating Party

By: 

Kent Klima – VP & GM

Date: March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

1120 15th Avenue  
Bloomer, Wisconsin 54724

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### **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

By and between the County of Dunn, Wisconsin, and Bloomer Telephone Company

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made this 10th day of March, 2022 by and among the Participating Parties (defined below) located in the State of Wisconsin (the "State") which, through their duly authorized representatives, have signed this agreement.

**WHEREAS**, the County of Dunn, a political subdivision of the State of Wisconsin, seeks to help and provide resources and the support necessary for economic development for this project; and

**WHEREAS**, Bloomer Telephone Company, a Wisconsin corporation doing business in the County, proposes to expand broadband capability to reach un-served and underserved residences, businesses and farms in the County of Dunn where such service is currently unavailable or is prohibitively expensive; and

**WHEREAS**, it is currently expected that the proposed broadband expansion would be constructed in areas within the County of Dunn, State of Wisconsin and enhanced broadband access and availability will be utilized to position the County of Dunn for desirable economic growth by addressing existing service disparities; and

**WHEREAS**, to further support its application for the State broadband funding grant, Docket Number 5-BF-2022,, the Bloomer Telephone Company has requested that the County of Dunn enter into an agreement, referred to as a Public-Private Partnership Agreement, to assist in the Project by:

- **Providing Financial assistance to the Project** in the form Federal and State provided funding through the American Rescue Plan Act Broadband Access Grant program;
- **Granting permission on and across County property upon request and when deemed by the County as appropriate** to engage in activities to construct the Project in compliance with all existing rules and regulations;
- **Recognizing that the Project is a priority** and is consistent with any internal planning documents adopted by the County of Dunn.

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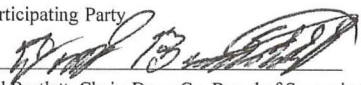


NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and among the Parties as follows:

1. **Records.** The County of Dunn will maintain and be the custodian of all records associated with the administering and performance of this Agreement and will make those records available upon request.
2. **Reporting.** The Bloomer Telephone Company shall meet with the County Board on a semi-annual basis for the purposes of presenting an oral and written report on the status of the Project. The date, time and place of such meeting shall be determined cooperatively among the parties. No fewer than seven (7) days prior to such meeting, the Bloomer Telephone Company shall provide the written report to the County regarding siting and construction progress with respect to the Project.
3. **Effective Date.** This agreement shall become effective upon its adoption and shall remain in full force and effect until terminated as provided herein.
4. **New Members.** After the effective date of this Agreement, additional municipalities may join in this Agreement.
5. **Termination.** This Agreement shall be deemed terminated by any party upon thirty (30) days written notice requesting termination of this Agreement in whole or in part.
6. **Severability.** The terms of this Agreement are severable and any determination by any court or agency having jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Agreement that results in the invalidity of any part shall not affect the remainder of the Agreement.
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8. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Wisconsin.
9. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.
10. **Federal Compliance.** The parties will enter additional agreements as necessitated by compliance requirements of the United States Government, or one or more of its agencies, regarding use of ARPA funds.

COUNTY OF DUNN, STATE OF WI

A Participating Party

By:   
David Bartlett, Chair, Dunn Co. Board of Supervisors

Date: March 10, 2022

BLOOMER TELEPHONE COMPANY

A Participating Party

By:   
Kent Klima – VP & GM

Date: March 10, 2022

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